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SB39-15/16: Restructure the Student Political Action Committee

Taylor McDermott

Braden Fitzgerald

Aaron Folsom

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution to Restructure the Student Political Action Committee

March 9th, 2016

SB39-15/16

**Authored by: Taylor McDermott, ASUM Senator, Braden Fitzgerald, ASUM Senator,
Aaron Folsom, ASUM Senator**

Sponsored by:

Whereas, the three (3) currently mandated events to be held by Student Political Action (SPA) Committee were originally intended to legitimize the existence of SPA during non-legislative years;

Whereas, in recent history, SPA hasn't fulfilled its requirements during non-legislative years to an extent that would warrant its existence;

Whereas, effort and the time of Senators could be better utilized elsewhere during non-legislative years;

Whereas, a restructuring of the committee would allow the time and effort of Senators to be spent elsewhere by decreasing the mandated workload and manpower during non-legislative years;

Whereas, Article IV, Section 9 currently reads:

Student Political Action Committee (SPA):

- A. The Student Political Action Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members, of whom five (5) shall be members of the ASUM Senate, and six (6) shall be students-at-large. During academic years in which the Montana Legislature convenes, the other position shall be occupied by the SPA Director. The Committee shall be chaired by an ASUM Senator.*
- B. The ASUM Office of Student Political Action shall be composed of one (1) SPA Director, hired only during academic years in which the Montana Legislature convenes, with the option of hiring volunteer interns as deemed necessary by the SPA Director.*
- C. The SPA Director and the ASUM lobbyist shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.*
- D. The SPA Committee shall serve as an advisory board to the SPA Director, providing guidance and supervision.*
- E. The Chair of Student Political Action committee, in coordination with the Student Political Action Director, shall present a plan of identified political issues and campaigns to be conducted during their term. This shall include, but is not limited to, conducting two town hall meetings and one political debate.*

- 47
48 F. *The SPA Committee, by simple majority vote, and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the*
49 *Senate, shall appoint a member of ASUM to act as a liaison to the Missoula City Council.*
50 *The ASUM Liaison to City Council will be reappointed at the beginning of every month.*
51 *The duties of the City Council Liaison shall include, but are not limited to, attending City*
52 *Council meetings at least once a month and reporting to ASUM Senate monthly.*
53

54 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that Article IV, Section 9 be amended to read:
55

56 *Student Political Action Committee (SPA)*
57

- 58 A. *The Student Political Action Committee shall be structured and operated differently*
59 *during legislative and non-legislative years.*
60
61 B. *During non-legislative years, the committee may be suspended for one (1) year upon a*
62 *four-fifths (4/5) majority vote of the Senate. The committee may not be suspended during*
63 *a legislative year.*
64
65 C. *The SPA Committee, by a simple majority vote, and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote*
66 *of the Senate, shall appoint a member of ASUM to act as a liaison to the Missoula City*
67 *Council. The ASUM Liaison to City Council will be reappointed at the beginning of every*
68 *month. The duties of the City Council Liaison shall include, but are not limited to,*
69 *attending City Council meetings and reporting to ASUM Senate at least once a month.*
70
71 D. *The Committee shall be chaired by an ASUM Senator who shall be a non-voting member*
72 *unless in the case of a tie. The committee will hold a quorum of at least six (6) voting*
73 *members while convened.*
74
75 E. *During non-legislative years, if the committee has not been disbanded, the duties and*
76 *functions of the Student Political Action Committee shall include:*
77 a. *The Student Political Action Committee shall consist of at least five (5) and no*
78 *more than ten (10) members, of whom five (5) shall be members of the ASUM*
79 *Senate and five (5) shall be students-at-large.*
80 b. *The Chair of Student Political Action Committee shall present a plan of identified*
81 *political issues and at least one (1) campaign per semester, mandated to be*
82 *conducted during their term.*
83
84 F. *During legislative years, the duties and functions of the SPA Committee shall include:*
85 a. *The Student Political Action Committee shall consist of eleven (11) members, of*
86 *whom five (5) shall be members of the ASUM Senate and five (5) shall be*
87 *comprised of students-at-large and volunteer interns. An additional seat shall be*
88 *reserved for the SPA Director.*
89 b. *The SPA Director and the ASUM Lobbyist shall be appointed by the President*
90 *and approved by the Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.*
91 c. *The ASUM Office of Student Political Action shall be composed of one (1) SPA*
92 *Director, hired only during academic years in which the Montana Legislature*

convenes, with the option of hiring volunteer interns as deemed necessary by the SPA Director.

- d. The SPA Committee shall serve as an advisory board to the SPA Director, providing guidance and supervision.
- e. The SPA Director and/or SPA Committee Chair shall receive a weekly written report from the lobbyist that shall include details such as bills and hearings currently in progress and their statuses, relevant legislators to each, and voting dates and times.
- f. The committee will hold a conference call with the lobbyist weekly for an update.
- g. The SPA Director and/or Committee chair will monitor potential bills two (2) months prior to the session, and throughout the session. During the session, the SPA Director and/or Committee Chair will check regularly for new bills that may fall within the legislative agenda.
- h. The SPA Director and/or Committee Chair will inform the lobbyist of bills to pursue as soon as they are approved by the committee.
- i. The SPA Committee will help organize one Lobby Day throughout the session.
- j. The SPA Committee will be responsible for all grassroots organizing on campus and within the community for bills within the legislative agenda.

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that this resolution would be effective immediately, and the current Student Political Action Committee would be mandated to hold only one (1) event for the remainder of the 2015-2016 academic year, in the Spring of 2016.

Passed by Committee: _____, 2015

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2015

Kaitlin Hopingardner,
Chair of Relations and Affairs

Betsy Story,
Chair of the Senate

